

Table 2.A7.—Insured status (benefit eligibility)

Act	Insured status concept	Provision
1939	Quarter of coverage (QC)	Calendar quarter in which \$50 of wages is earned. Four QC are credited for covered earnings equal to maximum limitation for the year.
1946		Calendar quarter in which \$50 of wages is paid.
1950		Calendar quarter credited with \$100 of self-employment income (reported annually).
1954		Calendar quarter credited with \$100 of agricultural wages (reported annually).
1977		Calendar quarters of coverage (up to 4) for each \$250 of annual earnings, effective Jan. 1, 1978 (<i>effective Jan. 1, 1979, dollar measure subject to automatic increase</i>): \$260, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1979</i> ; \$290, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1980</i> ; \$310, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1981</i> ; \$340, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1982</i> ; \$370, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1983</i> ; \$390, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1984</i> ; \$410, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1985</i> ; \$440, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1986</i> ; \$460, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1987</i> ; \$470, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1988</i> ; \$500, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1989</i> ; \$520, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1990</i> ; \$540, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1991</i> ; \$570, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1992</i> ; \$590, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1993</i> ; \$620, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1994</i> ; \$630, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1995</i> ; \$640, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1996</i> ; \$670, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1997</i> ; \$700, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1998</i> ; and \$740, <i>effective Jan. 1, 1999</i> .
1954		Disability definition
1965		Inability to engage in substantial gainful activity because of any medically determinable permanent physical or mental impairment.
1967		Disability lasting at least 12 months. For blind persons aged 55-64, inability to engage in usual occupation.
1990		Disability that precludes engagement in any substantial gainful work existing in the national economy. For surviving spouse, disability precludes any gainful activity.
1954		More restrictive definition for surviving spouse eliminated.
1972b		Period of disability
1935		Continuous period of at least 6 months as defined above or of blindness.
1939	Fully insured	At least 5 months of disability.
1950		Cumulative wages of \$2,000 and employment in each of 5 years after 1936 and before attainment of age 65.
1954		QC equal to one-half the quarters elapsed after 1936 (or quarter in which age 21 attained) and before quarter of death or attainment of age 65. Minimum 6 QC, maximum 40 QC.
1956		Elapsed period measured after 1950 (QC earned at any time are used).
1960		Period of disability excluded from elapsed period. Alternatively, QC earned in all quarters after 1954 and before quarter in which age 65 attained (minimum 6 QC).
1961		Elapsed period measured to age 62 for women. Alternatively, QC earned in all except 4 quarters after 1954 and before quarter in which age 65 attained (62 for women).
1972b		QC reduced to 1/3 the elapsed quarters.
1983		QC equal to years elapsed after 1950 (or year age 21 attained) and before year of death or age 65 (62 for women).
		Elapsed period for men reaching age 62 after 1972, measured to age 62 or to 1975, if later.
		Any person aged 55 or older on Jan. 1, 1984, and employed by a nonprofit organization to whose employees coverage is extended solely by reason of the new compulsory coverage provision, will be deemed fully insured upon subsequently acquiring 6 QC if aged 60 or older on Jan. 1, 1984; 8 QC if aged 59; 12 QC if aged 58; 16 QC if aged 57; and 20 QC if aged 55 or 56.

2.A OASDI: Coverage, Financing, & Insured Status

Table 2.A7.—Insured status (benefit eligibility) —*Continued*

Act	Insured status concept	Provision
1939	Currently insured	6 QC earned in 12 quarters before quarter of death.
1946		6 QC earned in preceding 13 quarters, including quarter of death.
1950		Including quarter of retirement added.
1954		Including quarter of disablement added.
1954	Disability insured	20 QC earned in last 40 quarters, including quarter of disablement, and currently insured.
1956		Fully insured requirement added.
1958		Currently insured requirement eliminated.
1960		Alternatively, 20 QC earned before quarter of disablement (not necessarily in last 40 quarters) but QC earned in all quarters after 1950, with minimum of 6 such QC.
1965		Alternatively, for blind under age 31, QC earned in one-half the quarters elapsed after age 21, with minimum of 6 such QC. For blind under age 24, 6 QC earned in preceding 12 quarters.
1967		For all disabled under age 31, same alternative.
1972b		For blind, requirement for recent QC eliminated.
1983		For those who become disabled again at age 31 or older and who were previously disabled before age 31, same alternative as that for those under age 31.
1965	Transitionally insured	Same as fully insured, but minimum reduced to 3 QC.
1966	Requirement for special age-72 monthly benefit	3 QC for each year elapsed after 1966 and before attainment of age 72. (No QC if aged 72 before 1968.)

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